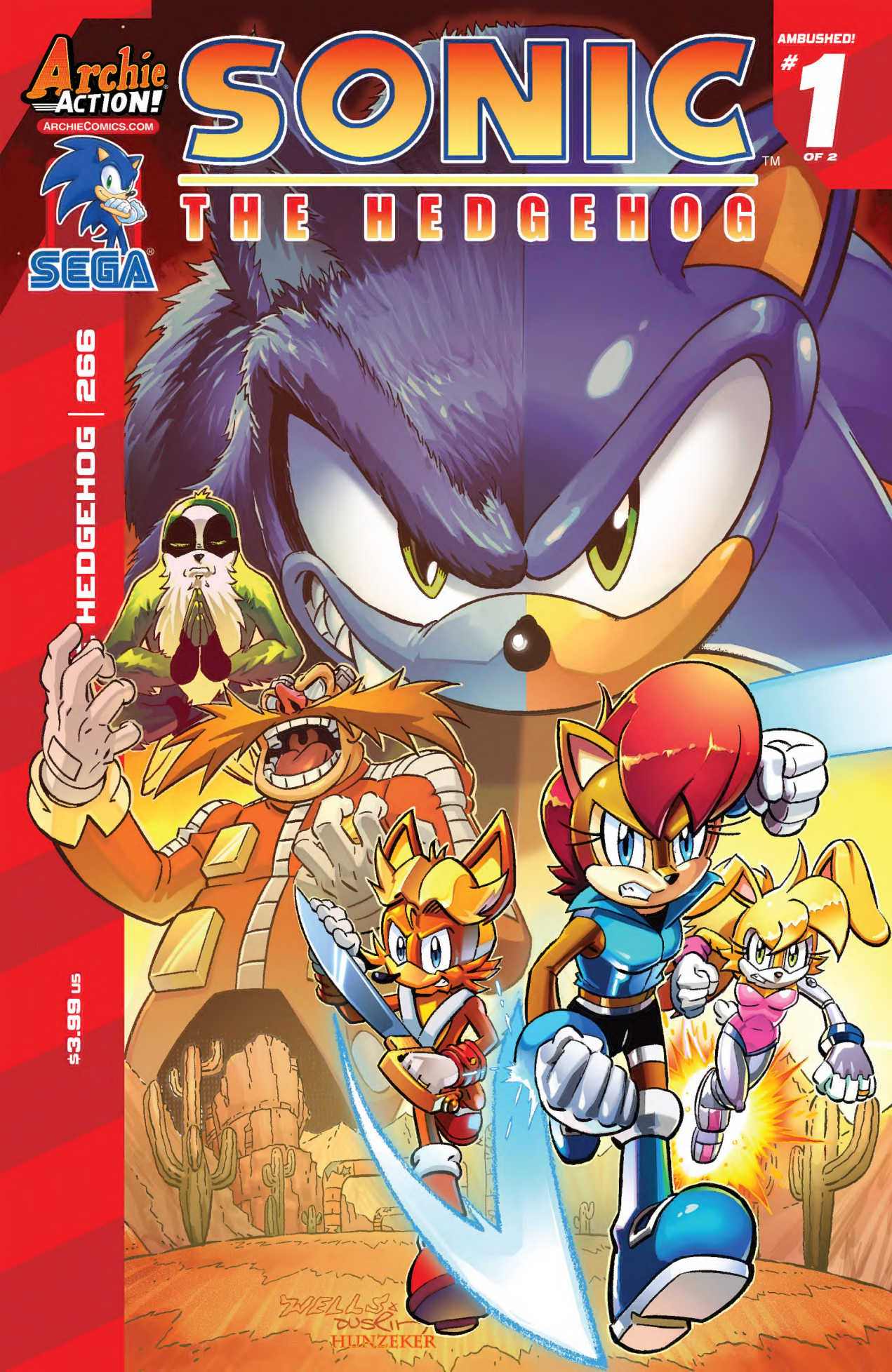
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CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

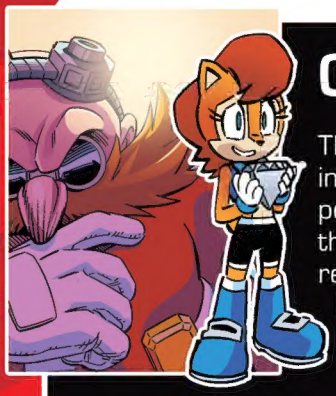
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG/WEREHOG
SUPER FAST HERO/ SUPER STRONG BEAST

DR. EGGMAN
MAD TYRANT

MOSS THE SLOTH
SPIRITUAL GURU

SALLY ACORN
LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

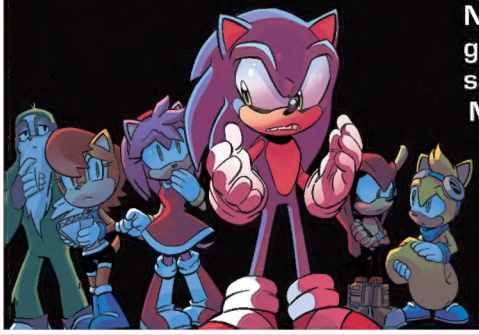
PREVIOUSLY...



CHAOTIC CRISIS!

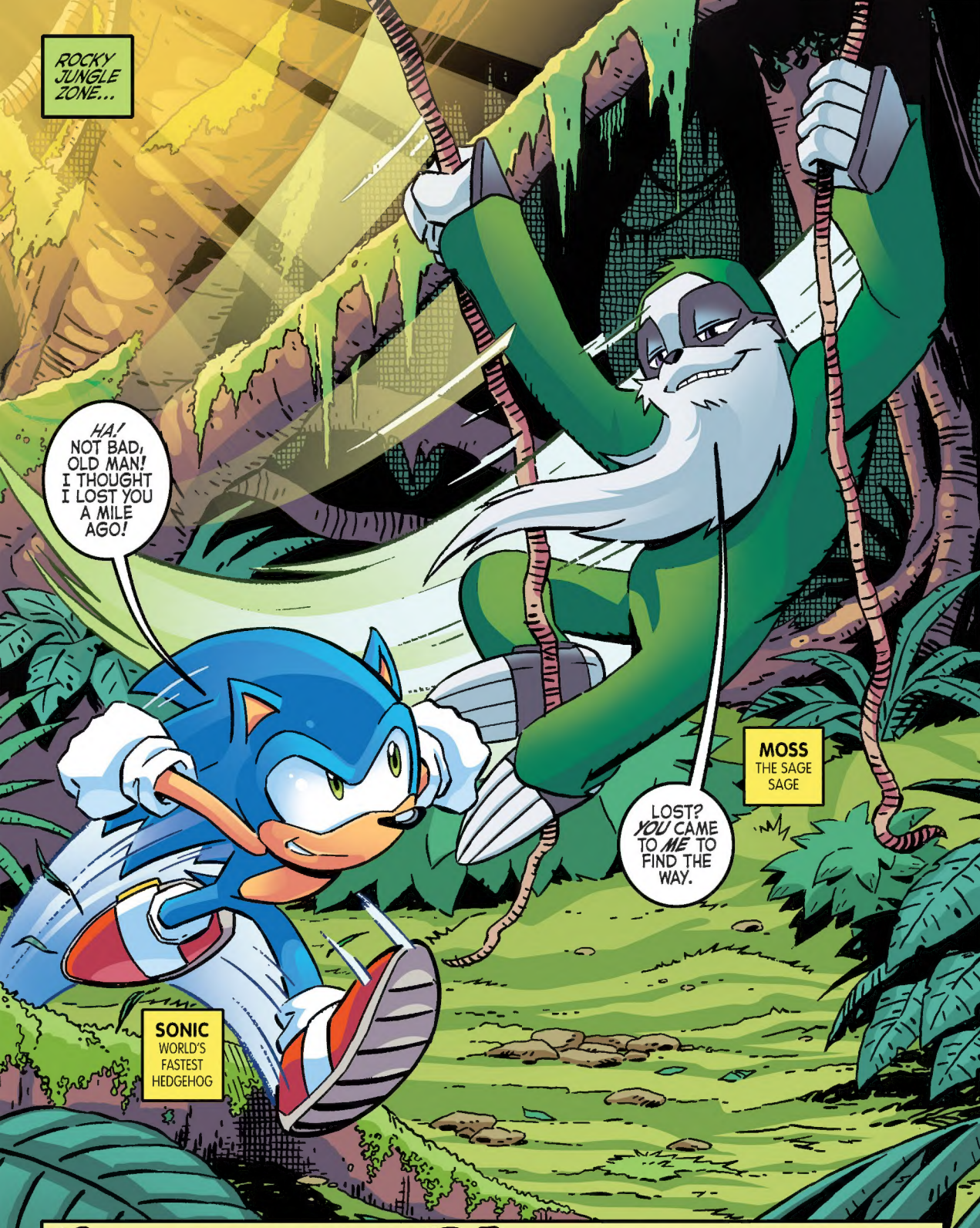
The planet's crust has been shattered into multiple flying chunks! Only the power of the Chaos Emeralds, focused through the seven Gaia Temples, can repair the world. Sonic and the Freedom Fighters are on the hunt to find the emeralds and temples before Dr. Eggman does!

When the world cracked open, noxious Dark Gaia energy began seeping from the planet's core, creating monsters and affecting the hearts and minds of the people. Sonic received a concentrated dose and was fighting its effects until he lost control – and the Werehog was unleashed!



Now Sonic seeks the guidance from the sagely sloth known as Moss to control his feral side, leaving the Freedom Fighters to face the Eggman Empire without him...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 266, January, 2015. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President. Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies $3.99. Subscription rate: $47.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2015. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2015. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 350 Rhode Island Street, Ste 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in USA.



AMBUSHED!

PART ONE

Writer: **IAN FLYNN**• Pencils: **JAMAL PEPPERS**
Inks: **TERRY AUSTIN**• Colors: **GABRIEL CASSATA**
Letters: **JOHN WORKMAN**
Cover by **LAMAR WELLS, TERRY AUSTIN** and **BEN HUNZEKER**
"SUPER SMASH VAR." Cover (3 of 3) by **RAFA KNIGHT**
Assistant Editor: **VINCENT LOVALLO**
Editor/Executive Director of Editorial: **PAUL KAMINSKI**
Editor-in-Chief: **VICTOR GORELICK**
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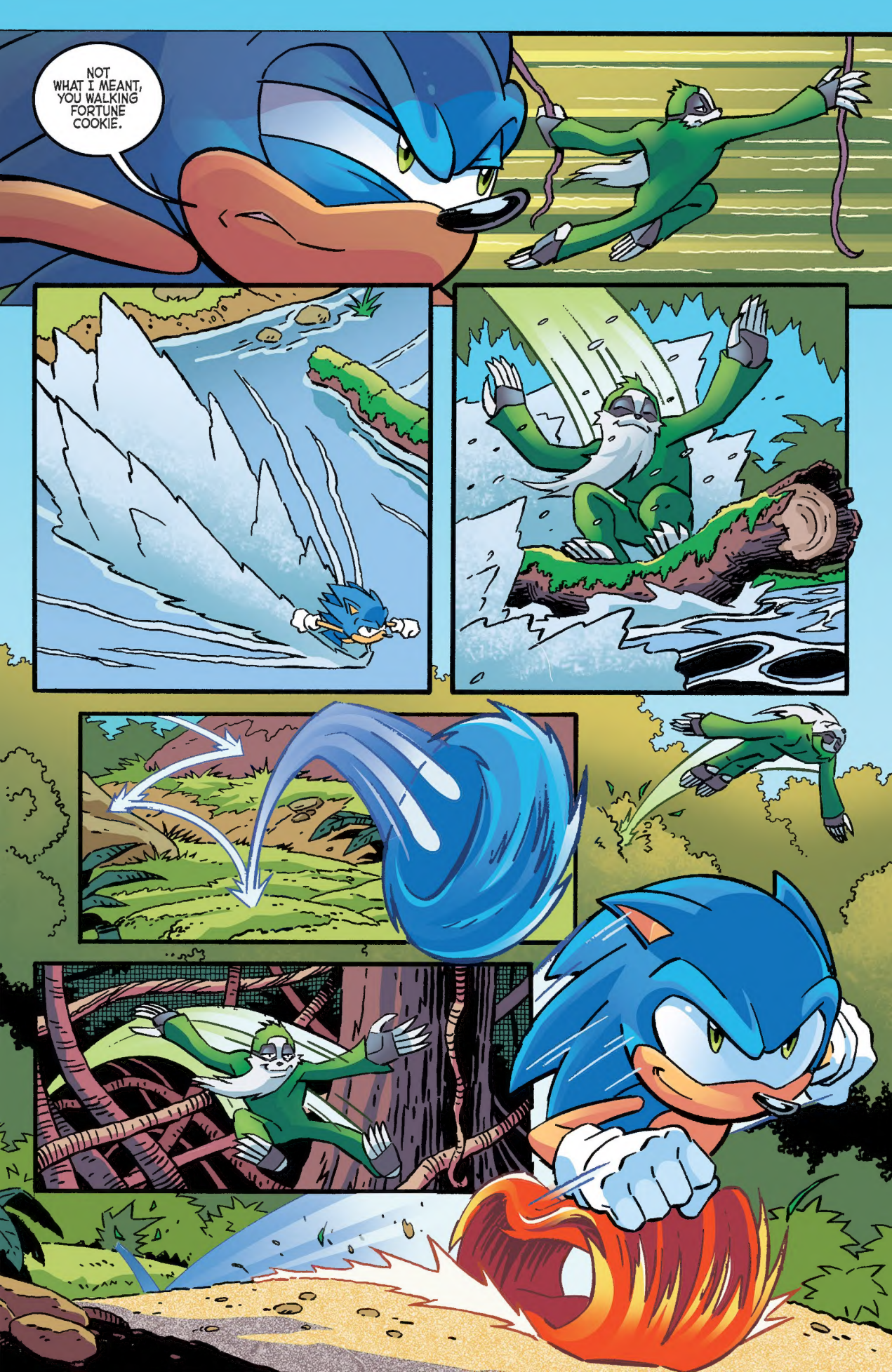
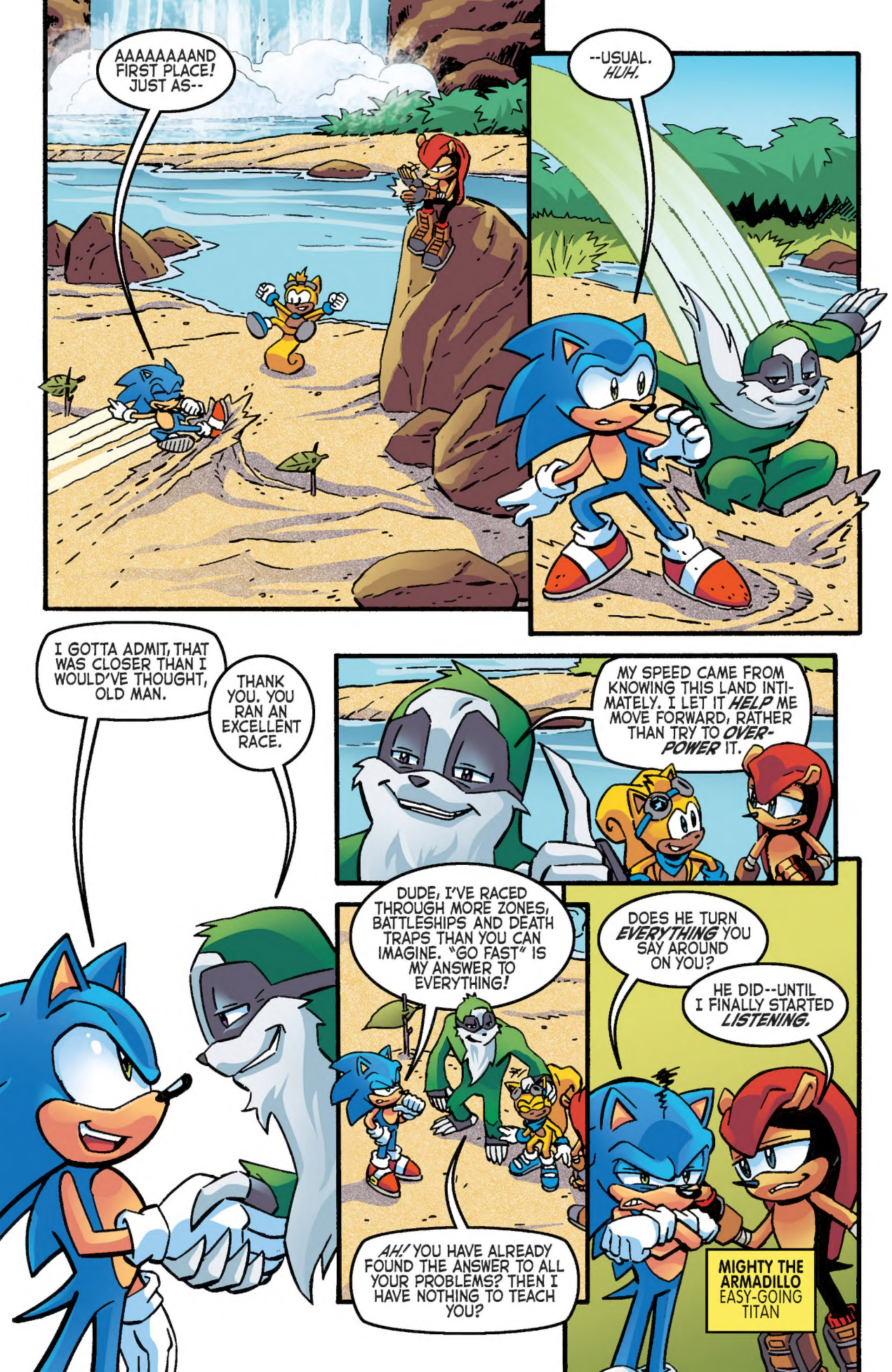
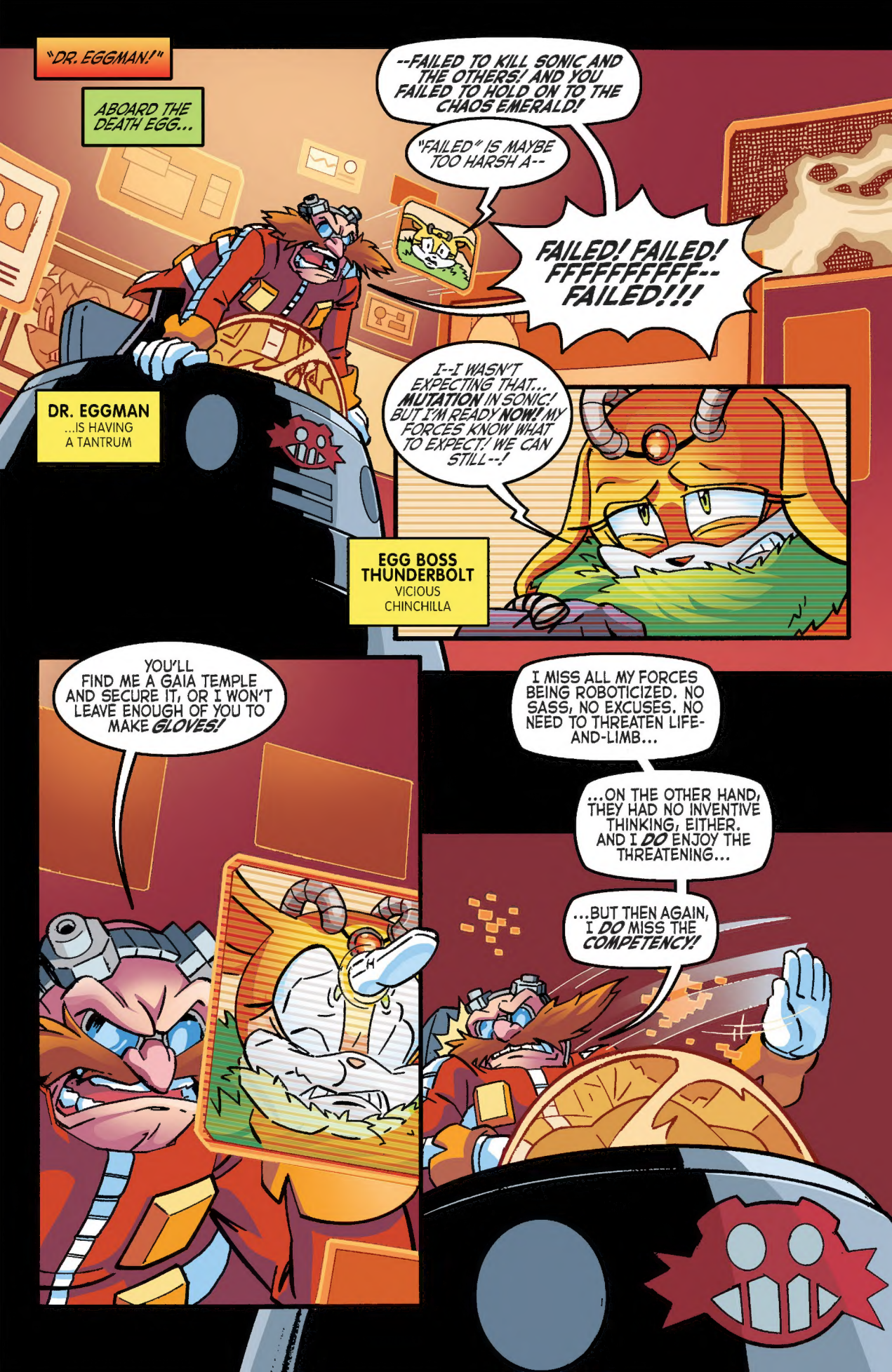
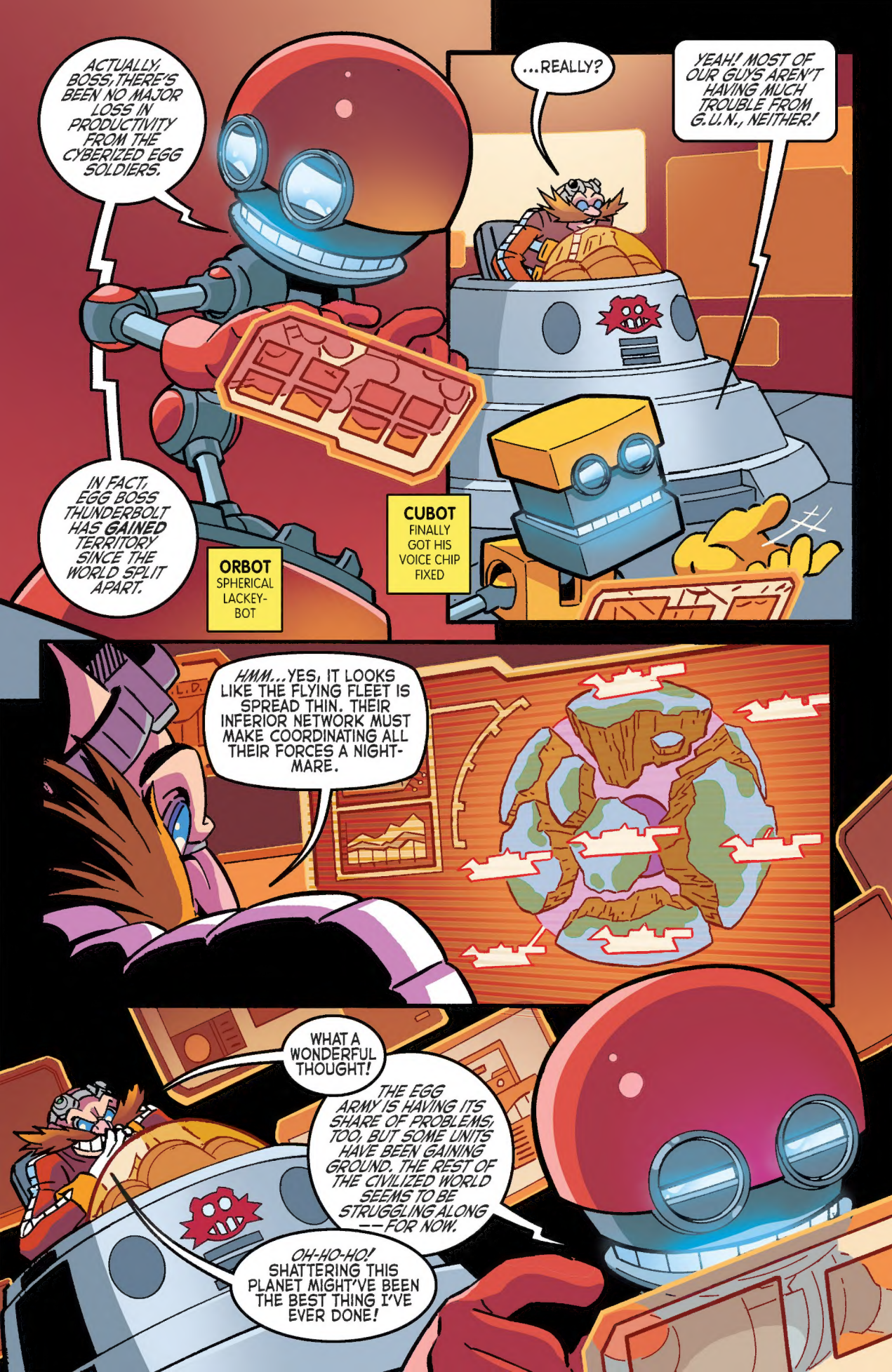
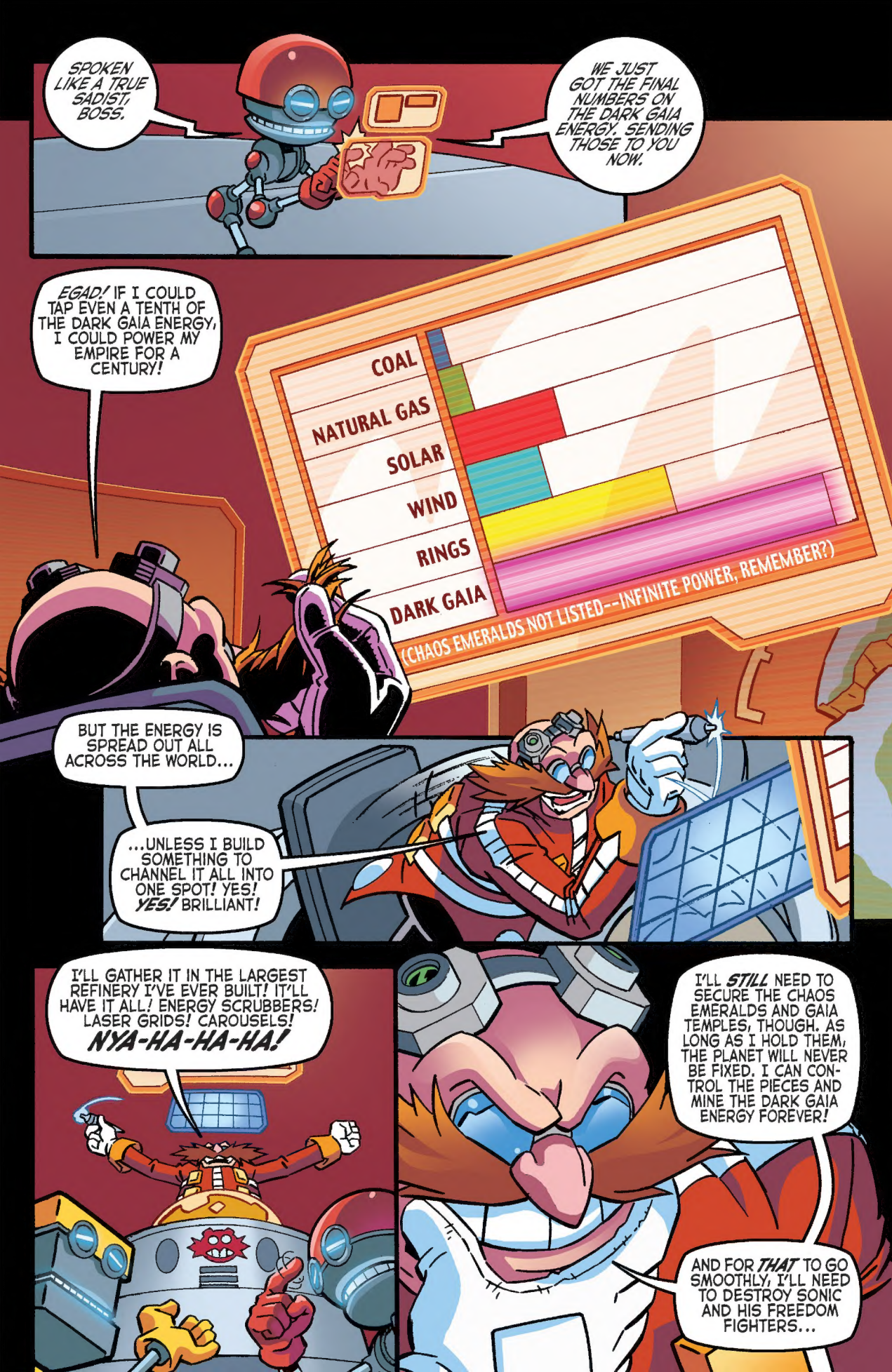

NOT WHAT I MEANT, YOU WALKING FORTUNE COOKIE.

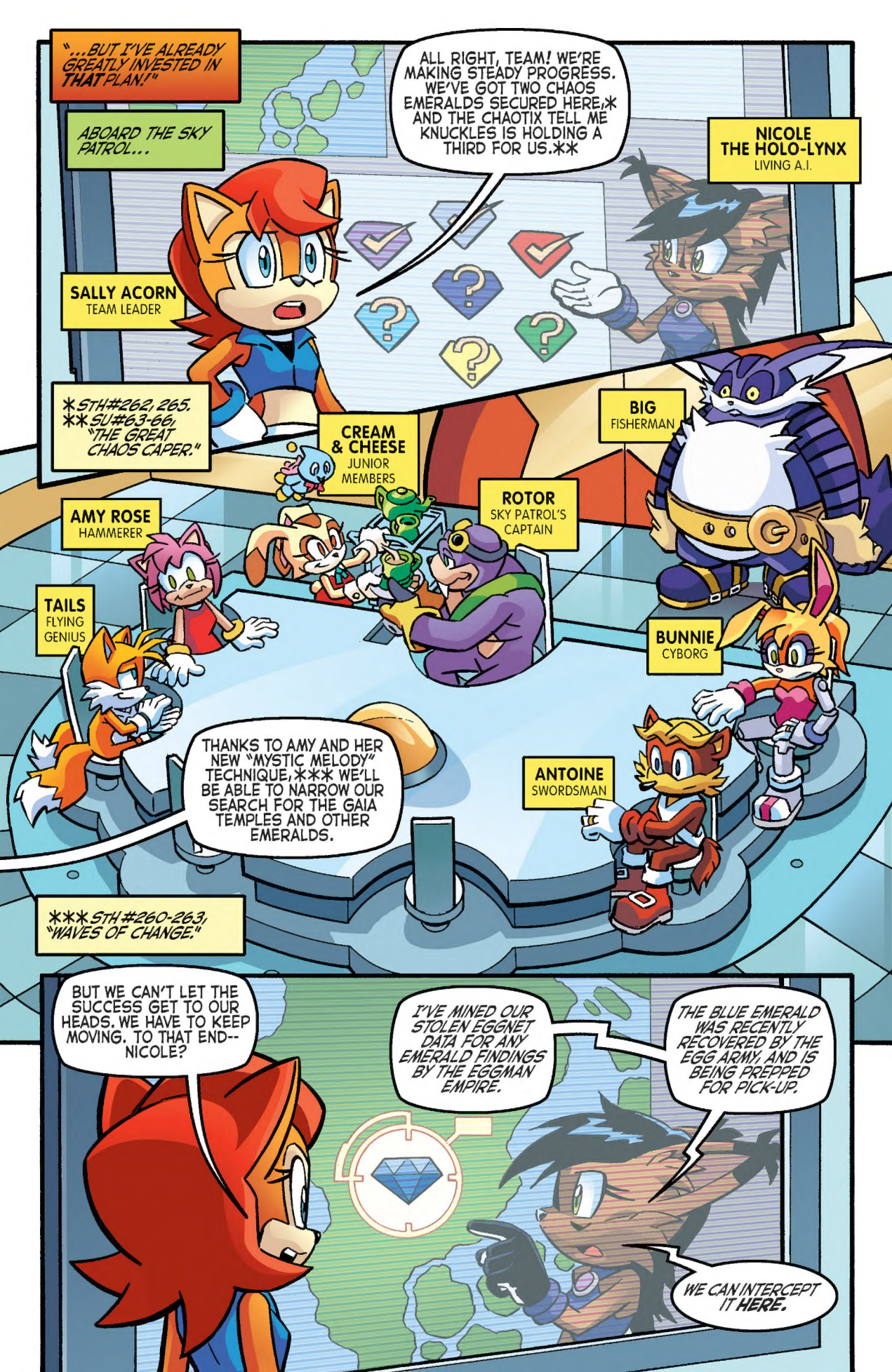

AAAAAAAAND FIRST PLACE! JUST AS--
--USUAL. HUH.
I GOTTA ADMIT, THAT WAS CLOSER THAN I WOULD'VE THOUGHT, OLD MAN.
THANK YOU. YOU RAN AN EXCELLENT RACE.
MY SPEED CAME FROM KNOWING THIS LAND INTIMATELY. I LET IT HELP ME MOVE FORWARD, RATHER THAN TRY TO OVER-POWER IT.
DUDE, I'VE RACED THROUGH MORE ZONES, BATTLESHIPS AND DEATH TRAPS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. "GO FAST" IS MY ANSWER TO EVERYTHING!
AH! YOU HAVE ALREADY FOUND THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR PROBLEMS? THEN I HAVE NOTHING TO TEACH YOU?
DOES HE TURN EVERYTHING YOU SAY AROUND ON YOU?
HE DID--UNTIL I FINALLY STARTED LISTENING.
MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO
EASY-GOING TITAN

MASTER MOSS IS REALLY SMART, SONIC! HE TAUGHT MIGHTY CONTROL, AND ME TO BE, WELL...
MORE PROACTIVE.
HAHA ...I'M WORKING ON IT.
RAY THE FLYING SQUIRREL
MIGHTY'S PROTÉGÉ
I KNOW I NEED HELP HANDLING THIS...TRANSFORMATION THING. I DON'T WANT TO RISK LOSING CONTROL AGAIN AND HURTING MY FRIENDS.
BUT I KNOW HOW I DEAL WITH STUFF, AND NO AMOUNT OF ZEN-TALK IS GOING TO HELP ME!
YOU ARE A FREE SPIRIT, CHILD. FREE AS THE WIND. YOU RESIST "CONTROL" TO YOUR VERY CORE.
WHAT YOU MUST LEARN IS ACCEPTANCE.
BESIDES, ALL THIS TALK ABOUT "CONTROLLING" YOU? YOU KNOW WHO WOULD SAY THAT?
DON'T YOU EVEN GO THERE, DUDE.


"DR. EGGMAN!"
ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
--FAILED TO KILL SONIC AND THE OTHERS! AND YOU FAILED TO HOLD ON TO THE CHAOS EMERALD!
"FAILED" IS MAYBE TOO HARSH A--
FAILED! FAILED! FFFFFFFFFF-- FAILED!!!
DR. EGGMAN ...IS HAVING A TANTRUM
I--I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT... MUTATION IN SONIC! BUT I'M READY NOW! MY FORCES KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT! WE CAN STILL--!
EGG BOSS THUNDERBOLT VICIOUS CHINCHILLA
YOU'LL FIND ME A GAIA TEMPLE AND SECURE IT, OR I WON'T LEAVE ENOUGH OF YOU TO MAKE GLOVES!
I MISS ALL MY FORCES BEING ROBOTICIZED. NO SASS, NO EXCUSES. NO NEED TO THREATEN LIFE-AND-LIMB...
...ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAD NO INVENTIVE THINKING, EITHER. AND I DO ENJOY THE THREATENING...
...BUT THEN AGAIN, I DO MISS THE COMPETENCY!


ACTUALLY, BOSS, THERE'S BEEN NO MAJOR LOSS IN PRODUCTIVITY FROM THE CYBERIZED EGG SOLDIERS.
IN FACT, EGG BOSS THUNDERBOLT HAS GAINED TERRITORY SINCE THE WORLD SPLIT APART.
ORBOT SPHERICAL LACKEY-BOT
...REALLY?
YEAH! MOST OF OUR GUYS AREN'T HAVING MUCH TROUBLE FROM G.U.N., NEITHER!
CUBOT FINALLY GOT HIS VOICE CHIP FIXED
HMM...YES, IT LOOKS LIKE THE FLYING FLEET IS SPREAD THIN. THEIR INFERIOR NETWORK MUST MAKE COORDINATING ALL THEIR FORCES A NIGHT-MARE.
WHAT A WONDERFUL THOUGHT!
THE EGG ARMY IS HAVING ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS, TOO, BUT SOME UNITS HAVE BEEN GAINING GROUND. THE REST OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD SEEMS TO BE STRUGGLING ALONG --FOR NOW.
OH-HO-HO! SHATTERING THIS PLANET MIGHT'VE BEEN THE BEST THING I'VE EVER DONE!


SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE SADIST, BOSS.
WE JUST GOT THE FINAL NUMBERS ON THE DARK GAIA ENERGY. SENDING THOSE TO YOU NOW.
EGAD! IF I COULD TAP EVEN A TENTH OF THE DARK GAIA ENERGY, I COULD POWER MY EMPIRE FOR A CENTURY!
COAL
NATURAL GAS
SOLAR
WIND
RINGS
DARK GAIA
(CHAOS EMERALDS NOT LISTED--INFINITE POWER, REMEMBER?)
BUT THE ENERGY IS SPREAD OUT ALL ACROSS THE WORLD...
...UNLESS I BUILD SOMETHING TO CHANNEL IT ALL INTO ONE SPOT! YES! YES! BRILLIANT!
I'LL GATHER IT IN THE LARGEST REFINERY I'VE EVER BUILT! IT'LL HAVE IT ALL! ENERGY SCRUBBERS! LASER GRIDS! CAROUSELS! NYA-HA-HA-HA!
I'LL STILL NEED TO SECURE THE CHAOS EMERALDS AND GAIA TEMPLES, THOUGH. AS LONG AS I HOLD THEM, THE PLANET WILL NEVER BE FIXED. I CAN CONTROL THE PIECES AND MINE THE DARK GAIA ENERGY FOREVER!
AND FOR THAT TO GO SMOOTHLY, I'LL NEED TO DESTROY SONIC AND HIS FREEDOM FIGHTERS...


"...BUT I'VE ALREADY GREATLY INVESTED IN THAT PLAN!"
ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...
ALL RIGHT, TEAM! WE'RE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS. WE'VE GOT TWO CHAOS EMERALDS SECURED HERE,* AND THE CHAOTIX TELL ME KNUCKLES IS HOLDING A THIRD FOR US.**
NICOLE THE HOLO-LYNX LIVING A.I.
SALLY ACORN TEAM LEADER
*STH#262, 265. **SU#63-66, "THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER."
CREAM & CHEESE JUNIOR MEMBERS
BIG FISHERMAN
ROTOR SKY PATROL'S CAPTAIN
AMY ROSE HAMMERER
TAILS FLYING GENIUS
BUNNIE CYBORG
THANKS TO AMY AND HER NEW "MYSTIC MELODY" TECHNIQUE,*** WE'LL BE ABLE TO NARROW OUR SEARCH FOR THE GAIA TEMPLES AND OTHER EMERALDS.
ANTOINE SWORDSMAN
***STH #260-263, "WAVES OF CHANGE."
BUT WE CAN'T LET THE SUCCESS GET TO OUR HEADS. WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING. TO THAT END--NICOLE?
I'VE MINED OUR STOLEN EGGNET DATA FOR ANY EMERALD FINDINGS BY THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
THE BLUE EMERALD WAS RECENTLY RECOVERED BY THE EGG ARMY, AND IS BEING PREPPED FOR PICK-UP.
WE CAN INTERCEPT IT HERE.

BON! AND EET IS SO CLOSE TO ZE LAST EGG ARMY BASE WE RAIDED.
YES...IT'S ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. WE BARELY ESCAPED THUNDERBOLT'S TRAP THE OTHER DAY...*
*STH#264-265.
AND EGGMAN LOST ANOTHER OF HIS PRECIOUS E-100 ROBOTS IN THE PROCESS. AT MOST, I'D EXPECT A SUPER BADNIK GUARDING THE EMERALD, AND WE CAN HANDLE THAT.
STILL... SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR SONIC TO GET BACK FIRST?
I WANT HIM BACK, TOO--AND SOON. BUT HE NEEDS TO ...GET WELL FIRST.
WE'RE HIS FRIENDS. WE CAN HELP HIM.
THIS COULD HELP HIM, TOO. IF THE CHAOS EMERALDS CAN FIX THE WHOLE DURN PLANET, SURE TO GOODNESS THEY CAN FIX WHATEVER'S AILIN' SONIC.

WHETHER IT'S A TRAP, OR JUST SLOPPINESS ON HIS PART, WE CAN'T ALLOW EGGMAN A CHANCE TO MOVE THE BLUE EMERALD TO A MORE SECURE LOCATION.
THIS COULD BE DANGEROUS, SO WE'LL PUT IT TO A VOTE. ALL IN FAVOR OF GOING AFTER THE--
--HAHA, OKAY, THEN!
ANTOINE AND BUNNIE-- YOU'RE WITH ME ON TEAM FREEDOM. WE'LL GO IN QUIET, BUT BE PREPARED FOR THINGS TO GET HEATED.
YOU THREE ARE TEAM FIGHTERS AND OUR BACK-UP. NICOLE WILL KEEP AN EYE ON THE SCANNERS.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO? THE TWO OF US GOT ZAPPED PRETTY BAD IN THAT TRAP.
I'M SURE.
WHAT ABOUT CHEESE AND I? AND MR. BIG?
YOU THREE STAY UP WHERE IT'S SAFE. YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY...

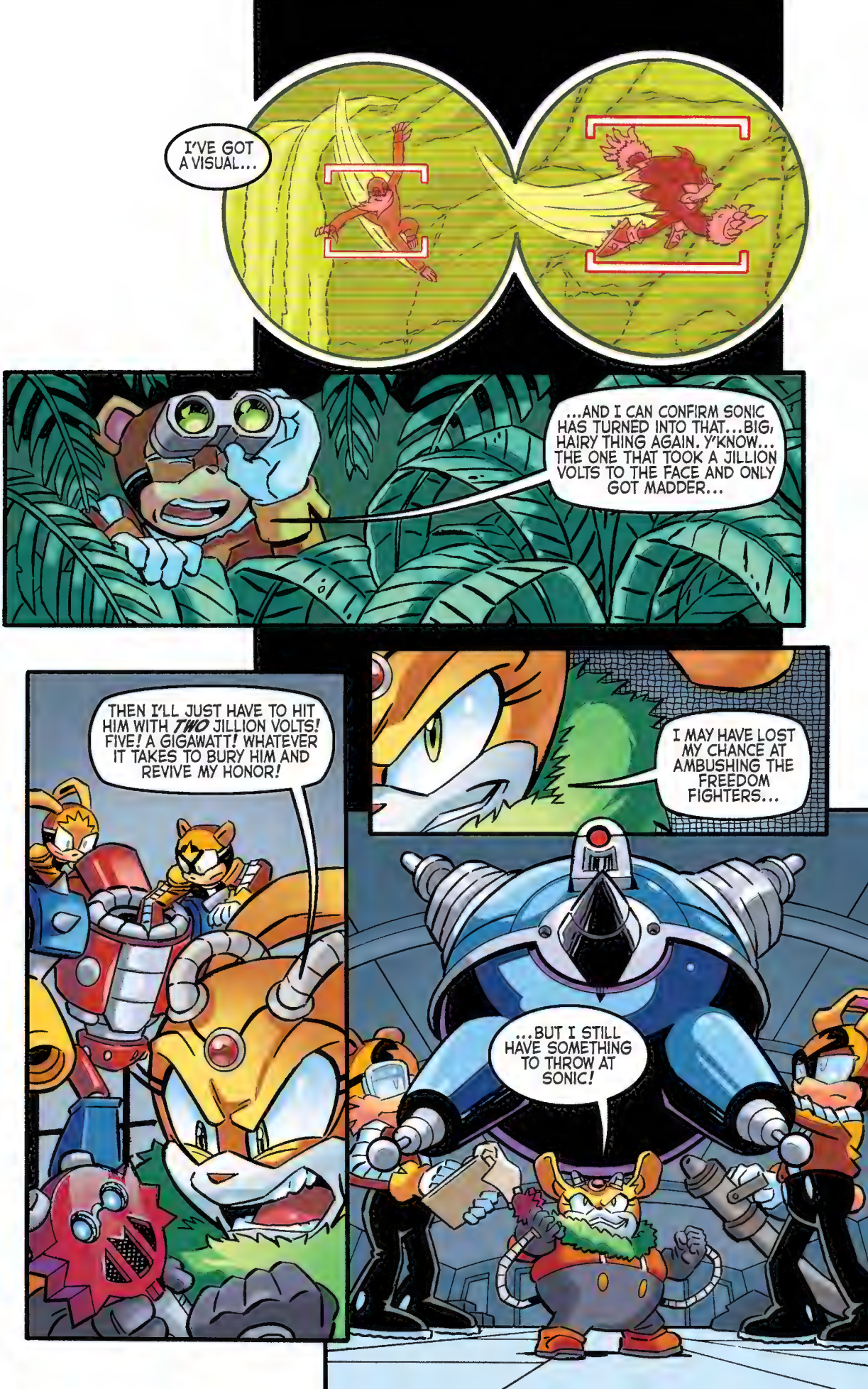
"...BUT YOU NEED MORE TRAINING BEFORE I LET YOU DO SOMETHING THIS DANGEROUS."
ROCKY JUNGLE ZONE...
WHOOSH!
CREEECK
F-THOOM!

HOW WAS THAT?
MOST IMPRESSIVE. YOU HAVE ALREADY ADAPTED WELL TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF "PASSIVE PROGRESSION."
WOW! SONIC'S FAST AT EVERYTHING, HUH?
UH-HUH. AND SO MODEST ABOUT IT.
SORRY? WHAT WAS THAT? "I'M THE BEST AT EVERYTHING EVER"?
SAY AGAIN? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER YOUR EGO!
SERIOUSLY, THO', I'M PROUD OF YOU, BIG BLUE. AND HUMBLED.
YOU INSPIRED ME TO GET MY ACT TOGETHER BACK IN THE DAY, AND YOU'VE SHOWN ME I'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO NOW.
-RESPECT-

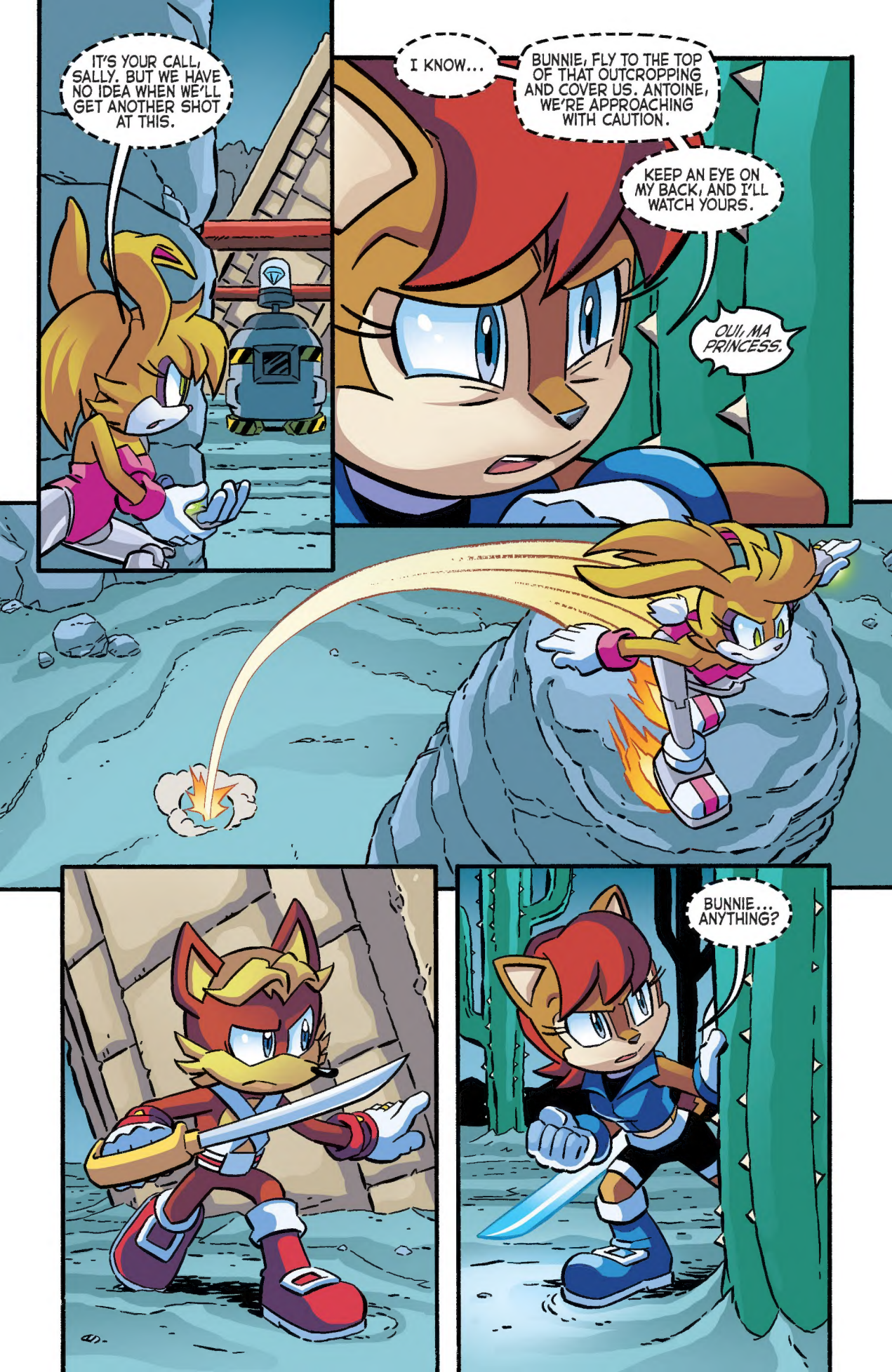
WHAAAAAT? YOU HAD MY BACK THE OTHER NIGHT, REMEMBER?
DUDE, YOU COULD TOTALLY HANDLE YOUR OWN FREEDOM FIGHTER TEAM.
OHHHH, NO. NUH-UH. I'M NOT LEADERSHIP MATERIAL.
YOU SO ARE! YOU'RE KIND, AND SMART, AND STRONG, AND--OOH! I'D BE THE FIRST TO JOIN! AND MASTER MOSS COULD BE OUR WISE ADVISOR!
UH...MAYBE DIAL BACK THE OPTIMISM FOR ONCE, LI'L BUDDY.
WE DO NOT GROW STRONGER BY ONLY FACING THE CHALLENGES WE ARE COMFORTABLE WITH. SHEPHERDING SOME OF MY OTHER STUDENTS COULD DO YOU SOME GOOD.
YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY --!
DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE STARTED?! TAKE IT BACK BEFORE...
...SONIC?
YEAH, SORRY. IT'S JUST...
...THE SUN'S ABOUT TO SET.

BREATHE. THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINING TOWARDS. FACE IT WITH THE SAME CONFIDENCE AS YOU DID THE JUNGLE AND THE WATERFALL.
THOSE DIDN'T HAVE CLAWS AND TEETH, AND THEY WEREN'T COMING OUT OF ME.
YOU CAN DO THIS, SONIC! WE KNOW YOU CAN!
AND IF YOU SLIP, I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.
...RIGHT. THANKS, GUYS.
DO NOT FIGHT IT--FOR YOU CANNOT FIGHT YOURSELF. IT IS NOT A BEAST, FOR IT IS YOU. IF YOU ARE A HERO, THEN IT WILL BE A HERO AS WELL.

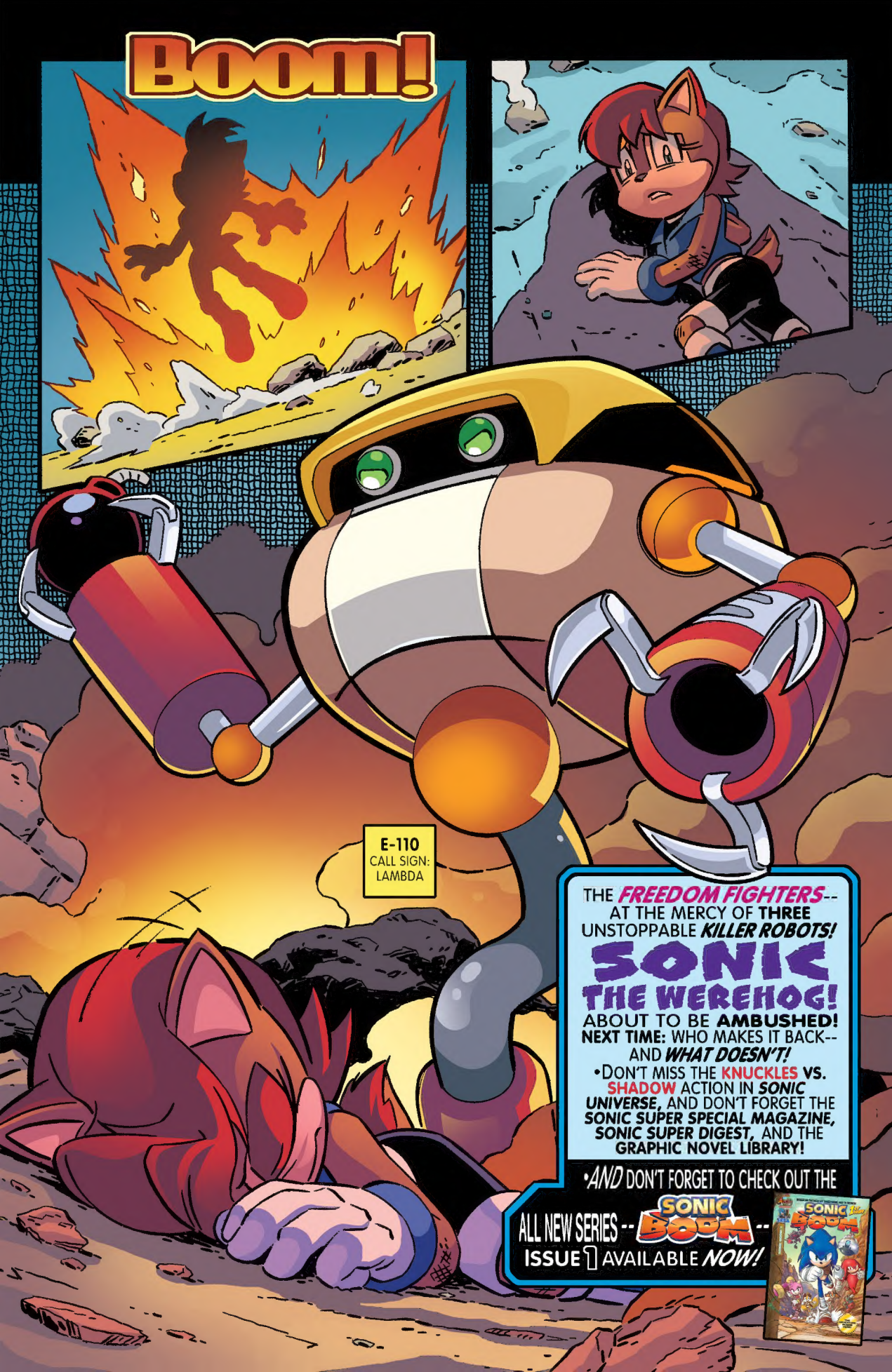
HOW YOU FEELIN'?
I FEEL... GOOD.
YOU CAN RELAX--I THINK I'VE GOT THIS.
SO... WHAT'S IT LIKE?
WEIRD! FANGS AND CLAWS ASIDE--IT'S LIKE ALL MY SPEED GOT TURNED INTO MUSCLE, AND ...AND...
ARRROOOOOOO!
HEY, OLD MAN! CARE FOR A REMATCH OF THAT RACE?
THAT SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL.


I'VE GOT A VISUAL...
...AND I CAN CONFIRM SONIC HAS TURNED INTO THAT...BIG, HAIRY THING AGAIN. Y'KNOW... THE ONE THAT TOOK A JILLION VOLTS TO THE FACE AND ONLY GOT MADDER...
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO HIT HIM WITH *TWO* JILLION VOLTS! FIVE! A GIGAWATT! WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BURY HIM AND REVIVE MY HONOR!
I MAY HAVE LOST MY CHANCE AT AMBUSHING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
...BUT I STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO THROW AT SONIC!

MEANWHILE, IN SAND HILL ZONE...
I AM IN POSITION AND SEEING ZE EMERALD AS PLAIN AS ZE DAYLIGHT.
AH'M IN POSITION, TOO. IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THERE ARE ANY GUARDS.
IT LOOKS LIKE A BLATANT TRAP.
ZE GATEWAYS... ALARMS, MAYBE? OR ZE FAKE-ALARM DECOYS? BOTH?
IT'S EGGMAN. IT COULD BE ANYTHING.


IT'S YOUR CALL, SALLY. BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHEN WE'LL GET ANOTHER SHOT AT THIS.
I KNOW...
BUNNIE, FLY TO THE TOP OF THAT OUTCROPPING AND COVER US. ANTOINE, WE'RE APPROACHING WITH CAUTION.
KEEP AN EYE ON MY BACK, AND I'LL WATCH YOURS.
OUI, MA PRINCESS.
BUNNIE... ANYTHING?

AH ONLY SEE YOU TWO AND LOTS O' SAND.
SHRIEEEEEEEEK
OH, MAH STARS--!
E-108 CALL SIGN: IOTA
BUNNIE!
Boom!
YREEEEEEEE
E-109 CALL SIGN: KAPPA
YREEEEEEEEEEEEEE
IT WAS ANOTHER TRAP! AND I LED US STRAIGHT INTO IT--
FALL BACK TO THE SKY PATROL! WE CAN'T--!


Boom!
E-110
CALL SIGN:
LAMBDA
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS--
AT THE MERCY OF THREE
UNSTOPPABLE KILLER ROBOTS!
SONIC
THE WEREHOG!
ABOUT TO BE AMBUSHED!
NEXT TIME: WHO MAKES IT BACK--
AND WHAT DOESN'T!
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